Irregularities in Food Distribution during Drought Relief Work

2045. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "irregularities in distribution of food" published in the Indian Express dated 23rd June, 2000;

(b) whether voluntary agency has been distributing nutrition supplementary to workers employed in drought relief works;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to check the irregularities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The primary responsibility for undertaking necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities is that of the State Government concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments. Distribution of relief and undertaking relief measures at the ground level are the responsibility of the Government of Gujarat. The press report has been sent to the State Government for appropriate action.

National Action Plan for Controlling Natural Calamities in Assam

2046. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan for controlling the floods and natural calamities situation in the country particularly in the State of Assam during the Ninth Plan;

(b) whether Government assessed the floods situation in Assam during the years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) if so, the full details thereof; and

(d) the details of financial assistance given to the State and utilized so far for the same during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has informed that they have not formulated any National Action Plan for controlling the floods particularly in the State of Assam. The Ministry of Agriculture has not formulated any such Action Plan.

(c) and (c) As per information available from the Government of Assam, the damage due to floods of 1999-2000 and 2000-01 is indicated below:—

Item	1999-2000	2000-2001
Population affected (in lakhs)	8.94	15.06
Human lives lost	3	20
Cropped area affected (lakh ha.)	0.59	1.24

(d) Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for 2000-01 amounting to Rs. 15.66 crore has been released to the State.

Fall in Prices of Copra, Rubber and Tobacco etc.

2047. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI KORAMBAYIL AHMMED HAJI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to arrest the fall in the prices of the agricultural products like copra, rubber, tobacco, rice, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps being taken by Government to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural products; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The prices are determined by demand and supply factors and in order to arrest the decline in prices of some of the agricultural commodities, action has been taken on both these variables. In order to boost the demand the nodal agencies have been asked by the Government to procure commodities like copra,